

# The Baptist Record

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Cooperative Program Month

Dec. 29-30

## Youth Evangelism Conference To Ask: "Are You Ready?"

"Are You Ready?" is the theme of the 1980 Youth Evangelism Conference, Dec. 29-30, at the Mississippi College Coliseum in Clinton.



Stanton, David Meece, plus a number of youth choirs from around the state.

Bruce Fields, minister of youth at First Church, Canton, will lead congregational singing.

The program begins with registration at 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29, and concludes at 4:30 p.m. the following day.

Landrum is pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La. He is a



Landrum, former pastor of First Church, Greenville, Miss.

Case is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Tempe, Ariz., and Stanton is director of the institute of evangelism and professor of evangelism at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.

Landrum's Monday evening topic will be "Are You Ready To Live?" Case will speak Tuesday during morning and afternoon sessions.

And Stanton will do evangelism training, speaking at every session.

Andrus Blackwood and Company will give a concert at the Monday afternoon session. David Meece will perform for two sessions on Tuesday.

The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention

Board's Evangelism department. For information on housing, write Roy Colm, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Don Witzell, minister of youth at Jackson's Calvary Baptist Church, will be emcee/convenor.

## Missionary Requests Show Evangelism Need

By Mary Jane Welch  
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries are requesting more than 1,900 new missionaries for 1981 and want most of them to be directly involved in evangelism and church growth.

They are asking that 72 percent of the career missionaries requested, plus 61 missionary associates and journeymen, have primary assignments of winning people to Christ and starting churches.

Missionaries submitted a record 1,009 job requests, which translates to more than 1,900 people because most jobs will be filled by couples. Besides evangelism and church development specialists, they are asking for additional missionaries to work in education, health care, mass media, business services, community development and other areas.

Last year they made 873 job requests, representing 1,526 persons, but fewer than one out of four such requests is expected to be met by appointments this year.

The urgent need for more missionaries was emphasized as members of the Foreign Mission Board's personnel selection department and office of overseas operations met Sept.

29 to discuss priority requests in the board's eight geographical areas. Reports also underscored the increasing partnership between missionaries and Baptists in more than 90 countries where Southern Baptists have work overseas.

A request for a general evangelist in Quibdo, Colombia, resulted in part from a meeting requested by the executive director and the president of the Colombian Baptist Convention while at the Baptist World Congress in Toronto in June, said J. Bryan Brasington, director for western South America.

At the meeting, the Colombian Baptists said they wanted the Foreign

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## WITNESS TO THE WORLD



THROUGH THE  
**COOPERATIVE  
PROGRAM**

## Cooperative Program Gifts Exceed Budget

Through three-quarters of the year Mississippi Baptists are \$187,025 ahead of the budget for the year in Cooperative Program giving. The missions gifts through September totaled \$8,622,275 compared with the budget for the period of \$8,435,250.

The \$8,622,275 contributed by Mississippi Baptist churches during 1980 is \$1,287,739 more than the \$7,334,536 for the same period of 1979, which is an increase of 17.5 percent.

The Cooperative Program figures for the first three-quarters of the year

were released by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

September was the fourth million-dollar month in 1980 and the fifth such month in Mississippi Baptist history. The missions gifts total for the month was \$1,050,007, which was an increase over September of 1979 of \$14,373. This was an increase of 65.1 percent. The September 1979 receipts were \$636,234.

Other million-dollar months have been January, April, and July of 1980 and October of 1979. In addition, for February and May the receipts were more than \$900,000.

"This is a thrilling report," Kelly said. "It is evident that Mississippi Baptists are determined to continue to be involved in the implementation of the Great Commission as they continue to provide the resources for witnessing to a world that is in such desperate need of the gospel."

Kelly said, "Mississippians can be depended on to give their lives and their means in order to have the gospel made available to everyone in the world by the end of this century."

## MBC Music Includes Preachers' Choirs

Music for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 11-13 at Jackson's First Baptist Church, will be led by different musicians at each session. Plus, a number of Mississippians will be featured in special music segments of the statewide meeting.

Accompanists for the convention will be Becky Payne, organist, and Eva A. Hart, pianist. The two are staff musicians for First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Mike Smith, minister of music for Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, will be first music leader at the opening session of the convention on Tuesday morning.

Wilson Henderson, of First Baptist Church, Columbus, will deliver a message in song, as will the Parkway Baptist Church Choir, just prior to the convention president's message by Bill Causey, pastor at Parkway.

Gary Gregg, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, will lead the music at the Tuesday afternoon session. Messages in song will be by David and Shea Gilder of Central Baptist Church, Benton; and by David Larrimore of Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo.

John Laughlin, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Meridian, will lead the music for the Tuesday even-

ing session. And messages in song will be by John and Kathy McNair, missionaries to Spain and by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen.

The Wednesday morning session will be led in music by James Beasley, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs. Messages in song will come from Larry and Sandi Black of First Baptist Church, Jackson, and by the Mississippi College Choir, Jack Lyall, director.

Bill Barnes, minister of music at Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, will lead the music during the Wednesday afternoon session. Bob H. Jones, of Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, will offer a message in song that session.

Leon Bedsole, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Biloxi, will lead the Wednesday evening music. The Chancel Choir of First Baptist Church, Biloxi, will present special music prior to the convention sermon by Frank Gunn, pastor of the Biloxi Church.

And the final convention session on Thursday morning will be led in music by Ronnie C. McCall, minister of music at McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl. Lewis Oswald of First Baptist Church, Water Valley, will present a message in song, as will the Blue Mountain College Choir, directed by Charles Meyers.

## Attala Baptists Begin Project, "Partners In Pioneer Missions"

Attala Association, Levon Moore, director of missions, has adopted a program called "Partners In Pioneer Missions."

Moore said, "Every church needs to experience the joy of establishing a mission or helping with the growth of a new church. Some of our churches are situated in locations where there are few places or no places where new work is needed; this should not rob them of the thrill of new-work support."

"There is a way by which older churches in the deep South can have the blessing of direct involvement in new work," he added, "and at the same time new missions and churches in pioneer areas can receive encouragement and support."

"Partners in Pioneer Missions" includes the following steps: Through mutual consent, a church in a well-established area and a church or mission in a pioneer area vote to become partners in pioneer missions. These two churches work to develop and maintain close ties of communication, including correspondence between the two pastors; correspondence between key officers and leaders, with an exchange of ideas and information; periodic publication in the church bulletin of reports of work being done by the partner churches.

Exchange of visits by pastors and/or key leaders is to be promoted. These visits may be made to conduct revivals, teach Bible studies, lead surveys and Vacation Bible Schools and hold backyard Bible studies, and to provide work teams for special projects. Also vacation visits by members of the two churches are to be pointed out as opportunities for personal ministry.

Through "Partners in Pioneer Mis-

sions," the Attala churches can provide some regular financial assistance to pioneer churches or missions. This may be in the form of a regular monthly contribution, over and above gifts to associational missions and the Cooperative Program. Also occasional gifts could buy literature, song books, library material, bibles, tracts, educational supplies, etc.

The program is designed "to create a climate of prayerful concern in each congregation for the well being of the other congregation."

Moore said he believes this program will provide much-needed finances and personal encouragement to new churches, that it will inject new missionary interest and concern into the older churches, and that it will provide personal mission outreach opportunities for individual church members.

An effort will be made, he pointed out, to have at least 12 Attala Baptist churches involved in this program during the next associational year. Four churches are already committed, with money approved in the church budget for the project. Several other churches are considering this additional mission support.

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## G. L. Ford Will Retire Sunday After 35 Years At Bissell (Lee)

By Anne McWilliams  
G. L. Ford will complete 35 years as pastor of the Bissell Church in Lee County Oct. 12, and has announced that this will be his retirement day. Bissell members plan to honor him next Sunday with dinner on the grounds.

Ford will preach the sermon at the annual Lee County Association meeting Monday night, Oct. 13, at Parkway Church, Tupelo. Harold Anderson, Lee County director of missions, said that the association will give a reception in his honor following the session on Tuesday night, Oct. 14, at Belden Church. Ford has been pastor in Lee Association for 38 years. He has been

dean of the Tupelo Center of Mississippi Baptist Seminary for ten years.

Anderson said that Ford has been active in the association, serving as moderator, clerk, as member of various committees, and at present as parliamentarian.

Stated John G. Armistead, pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo, "I think that it is an amazing accomplishment for a man to serve (in one church) so faithfully for so long."

Ford will continue as interim pastor for at least four months.

Most likely, Ford will keep on preaching somewhere, as supply or interim pastor. "I have to preach," he said. "I enjoy preaching more than anything else in the world." His health remains in excellent condition. Since 1945, he has only missed eight Sundays' preaching, because of illness. "I have lots of energy, and I always stay busy," he explained. Usually he preaches eight or ten revivals a year.

Weddings and funerals he gives special emphasis. No two are alike. For weddings, he studies each couple — their backgrounds and personalities, their hopes and dreams. Then he writes the ceremony to match the couple. Neither are two of his funeral messages alike.

Next to preaching he likes to attend Baptist conventions, and he likes to travel. He has been to every Southern Baptist Convention since 1949, except two or three. As for state Baptist conventions, he said, "I wouldn't miss one for anything!" Two or three years ago, the Bissell Church gave him a new car.

Gordy Lee Ford was born March 7, 1914, in Lee County. He married Dorothy Morris, also of Lee County. Already he and his wife have left the pastorate at Bissell and moved into a home of their own about four miles away. They have a large garden, and filled two freezers this year. "I couldn't get along without my gardening," he declared. His hobbies he lists as fishing and woodcraft.

The Fords have one son, Jerry, who is married and the father of three sons. Since Jerry, a Tupelo fireman, and his family are members of Bissell Church, Ford is the pastor of his grandsons, Tim, 16, and Tony, 17, and "spends a lot of time" with Jason, 3½.

Ordained in 1941

Ford was ordained in 1941 by the Auburn Church, Lee County, the same church where he had been baptized. H. R. Holcomb was pastor at Auburn when in 1940 Ford surrendered to preach.

After studying at Mississippi State, he taught school, both before and after becoming a preacher.

Before he became dean of the Tupelo Center of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, he had taught at the Center several years, thrice a week. He earned Bachelor of Theology, and Master of Theology, and received an honorary doctorate from Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

His first pastorate, 1941-42, was Bethel Church, Monroe County. When Bissell called him in 1945, he was pas-

(Continued on page 3)



## Dinner On The Grounds

New Choctaw Baptist Association meets in Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Carthage, while dinner is cooked out back. At the stove frying chicken is Mary Lou Wilson. With the hominy paddle is Nannie Willis. Thirteen Choctaw churches are members of this Baptist association. Dolton and Martha Haggan are missionaries working with the Choctaws. — (Tim Nicholas Photo)

## Baptist Record Circulation Hits 130,087

This week the Baptist Record has reached a new high mark in circulation — 130,087. The Baptist Record has never established for itself a goal other than to serve Mississippi Baptists to the greatest extent possible.

To pass the 130,000 mark, however, is a very gratifying experience. We take this continued increase in circulation as an indication that Mississippi Baptists feel that the service of the Baptist Record has been worthwhile. For this, too, we are extremely grateful.

The Baptist Record has provided a service to Mississippi Baptists over a period that has spanned 103 years. It was begun in February of 1877 by J. B. Gambrell, a Southern Baptist statesman. It has sought to maintain high standards since the days of its beginning. Every editor along the way and all the staff members have made distinct contributions in this respect.

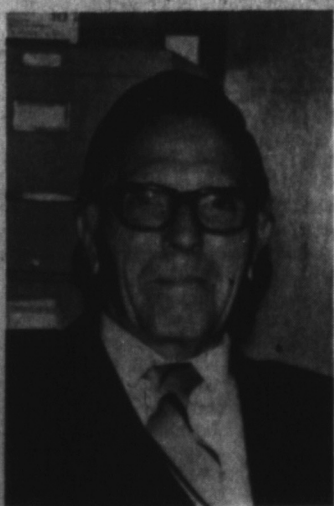
We at the Baptist Record are grateful that Mississippi Baptists have continued to have confidence in our effort.

(Continued on page 3)

## Coast Couple Will Serve In Israel

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dewitt Thompson of Bay St. Louis have accepted the invitation of the Southern Baptist mission in Israel to serve as food services supervisor at Baptist Village for about a year, beginning this month.

The Thompsons are members of First Church, Bay St. Louis.



Ford



## SBC Gifts Fall Short Of 1979-80 Projection

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist giving to the national Cooperative Program fell short of projections when September gifts increased only 1.2 percent over September 1979.

Year end totals show Southern Baptists contributed \$71,762,635 in undesignated gifts to the national Cooperative Program which funds the missions and educational enterprises of the convention. That total is an increase of 11.84 percent over the 1978-79 gifts. By comparison, the increase is one percent short of the cost of living index of 12.8 percent for the 12 months ending August 31, the latest figure available.

The gifts met the operating and capital needs budgets of \$71 million and edged \$762,645 into the \$12 million challenge goal.

September undesignated gifts were \$5,915,251, up 1.2 percent. Designated gifts rose 32.9 percent over September 1979 to \$1,330,873. For the year, designated gifts were \$63,439,562, up 15.53 percent.

Total designated and undesignated gifts for the year ending Sept. 30 were \$135,202,197, an increase of \$16,125,813 or 13.54 percent over the previous year.

## Most Ever First Southern, Del City Passes 2000 Baptisms

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP) — First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., became the first Southern Baptist church to baptize 2,000 persons in a single year by baptizing 2,027 in the 12 months ending Sept. 30.

First Southern's total surpassed the previous single year high of 1,669 set in 1971 at First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. That was the first time a Southern Baptist church had baptized as many as 1,000 persons in one year.

Bailey Smith, pastor at Del City and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said surpassing the 2,000 barrier has "raised a new standard."

The 15,000-member church in suburban Oklahoma City led the Southern Baptist Convention in baptisms five of the past six years, not including the year just finished, averaging 971 baptisms in that stretch. The 2,027 baptisms this year raise its average to 1,122 over seven years.

Final statistics from 35,600 Southern

Baptist churches have not been gathered and evaluated yet so it cannot be officially stated that Smith's church led the convention. But a check with last year's top five churches shows none is within 950 of Del City.

San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, led the convention last year with 1,174 baptisms. They lost their pastor and most of their staff this year and baptized 411. Del City was second last year with 1,105. First Baptist, Jacksonville, Fla., third last year with 938, baptized 1,067. North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., fourth last year with 815, baptized 1,033. First Baptist, Dallas, fifth last year with 663, baptized 624.

This is the first time three churches have baptized over 1,000 in the same year. Last year was the first time two churches had done it in the same year. Smith said the numbers indicate there is a move in the denomination toward reaching more people.

### Christian Action

## Ethicist Elder Says Apply Gospel To Actions

Elected members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission met in Jackson, discussed political involvement and heard an elder of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission speak on the impact of religious groups on the current national political scene.

W. W. Walley of Waynesboro is chairman of the Mississippi commission. During the meeting Executive Director J. Clark Hensley presented plaques to members who will be rotating off the commission at the time of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November. They are Jackie Hamilton, pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Meridian and Jimmy Wood, pastor of New Hebron Baptist Church in Lawrence Association. Macklyn Hubbell, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, who is now on the faculty of New Orleans Seminary, was also recognized. He would have rotated off the commission had he not left the state, which caused his membership on the commission to terminate.

Elder sought to acquaint the mem-

bers of the commission with current efforts by religious groups to influence the 1980 elections. He listed activist groups as Christian Voice, led by Robert Grant, claiming a million adherents; Moral Majority, led by Jerry Falwell, claiming 400,000; and Religious Roundtable, led by Ed McAteer and James Robison among others.

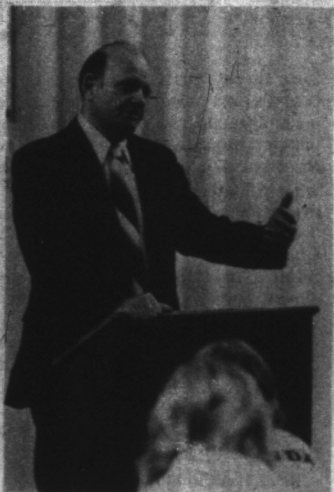
He called for an application of the gospel in determining what courses to follow in political action. He emphasized that it must be the authentic gospel and not a counterfeit. He urged the group to be wary of any effort that would seek to establish authenticity without proof. In considering legislation, he said, the rights of the majority should always be respected.

The members of the Christian Action Commission, in their business meeting, took note of legislative briefings being conducted in several associations across the state—including meetings with state legislators—and commended such programs to all associational organizations.

## BSU Convention Sept. 26-28



Allen Hill, missionary to the Philippines, doing student work, tells students that availability is the key to preparation for God's service, "when He's ready to call, we're ready to go."



Keith Parks, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, explains to students that Southern Baptist missionaries need to be educated at Southern Baptist seminaries.



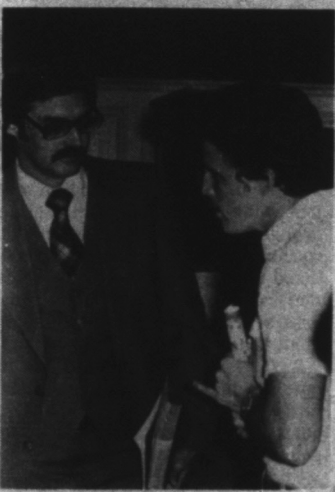
Wayne Watson, musician and composer from Baton Rouge, La., strums a tune. Ron Braswell of Delta State University, sits behind him.



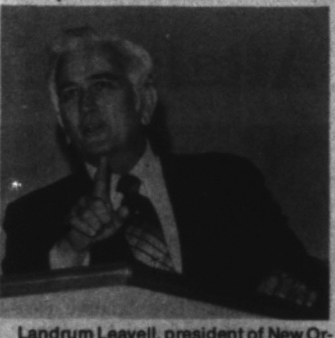
Marge Caldwell, charm and modeling teacher from Houston, Tex., tells students that "when Jesus becomes real to you, your dorm looks different, your roommates look different."



Filip Suminto, international student at MSU from Indonesia, tells of his change in thinking of Christians as "people who are useless." Missionary John Smith's witness changed all that. Now Suminto is a Christian.



Doug Ezell, Bible teacher for the BSU convention, talks with Mike Rithridge of Mississippi College. Ezell is a Fort Worth pastoral counselor.



Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, tells students that the "badge of a Christian is obedience to the will of God."

## Roman Catholic Greek Orthodox Dialogue Begins

ATLANTA (EP) — Centuries after the Great Schism split the churches of Rome and Constantinople, 60 Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churchmen have begun the task of healing the old wounds and spiritually reuniting almost a quarter of the world's population.

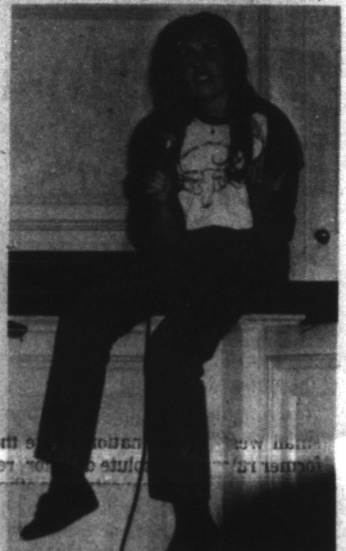
Greek Orthodox Archbishop Stylianos, primate of Australia and New Zealand, was chosen president of the 30-member Orthodox delegation in the dialogue.



Lou Leventhal, magician and student at Arkansas State University, entertains as he removes midsection of assistant Teresa Dawson while a student inspects.



Brian Horton, summer missionary to Connecticut, tells students that "I'm an ordinary person with an extraordinary God inside of me."



Judy McNeil of Mississippi State University, helps to interpret the BSU convention theme, "Reaching My World Now." She performed with the MSU-BSU drama group, Acts, Too.

## FMB's Rogers Smith Dies Of Cancer At Age 68

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Rogers M. Smith, 68, special assistant to the president of the Southern Baptist Foreign

Mission Board, died early Oct. 3 in a Richmond hospital. He had been hospitalized since August for treatment of multiple myeloma, a type of bone cancer.

Smith took the responsibility of special assistant with emphasis on correlating intercessory prayer in March as part of President R. Keith Parks' reorganization and desire to encourage and focus prayer for world missions.

Besides encouraging Foreign Mission Board staffers in intercessory prayer and serving as a liaison to prayer groups across the Southern

worked as the board's associate secretary for promotion and as a field representative.

Before joining the board staff in 1954, he worked with students in Tennessee for four years as student secretary and teacher in the School of Religion at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and for 10 years as secretary of the student department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

A native of Waco, Texas, Smith received the bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University there and the master of religious education and the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, the former Evelyn Melton, originally of Fort Worth, and two children, Sara Sue Athans of Birmingham, Ala., and Rogers M. Smith of Houston, Texas;

## Southern Baptist Leaders Denounce Christian Right

WASHINGTON (BP) — Three Southern Baptist leaders — a pastor, an executive and an ethicist — attacked the new Christian right during a two-day meeting here.

William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta; Jimmy R. Allen, president of the

Briefing at Dallas in August to show that the merger between the religious and political right has undermined the wall of separation between church and state.

Self, former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and

feature a new anti-clericalism.

What America needs instead, Allen insisted, is "a renewal of commitment" to the vision of the nation's founders. That vision, he said, was that the church and state should speak, but not dictate, to each other.



# Weatherford Will Lead BW Retreat

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union will lead the Baptist Women Retreat, Oct. 17-19, at Camp Garaywa, Clinton.

She will be speaking on the subject of a book she wrote entitled, "God Has Done His Part."

Other speakers Weatherford for the retreat include Rusty Griffin who will talk about women's potential involvement in disaster relief work; Harold Kitchings, who will talk about Baptist Foundation work; Guy Henderson, who will explain "how we spend what we give," Sue

Tatum, who will speak on lifestyle evangelism; James and Ewilda Fancher, who will speak on their mission trip to the Orient; and Bob and Mary Simmons, who will talk about their missionary work in the Philippines.

Theme of the retreat is "Lifestyle Commitment — Me, Lord?"

The retreat begins with supper at 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17. Participants need to bring Bible, sheets, pillow case, towels, soap, bath cloth, and blanket.

Deadline for reservations is Monday, Oct. 13. Cost is \$24 per person. Write: Ethel McKeithen, Baptist Women Retreat, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 354-3704.

# Attala Baptists Adopt Pioneer Mission Project

(Continued from page 1)

"This approach brings Bold Mission Thrust from the realm of the abstract to practical, personal application," Moore said. "Even smaller churches can be involved. If 10% of the 35,000 churches in the SBC would give an average of only \$600 annually, this would make \$1,200,000 per year available for additional support of pioneer churches and missions." Directors of missions across the nation could aid in establishing proper relations between partner churches.

"During the past few years Attala Baptists as a whole have shown a remarkable increase in mission giving.

"Part of this accelerated mission concern has been due to our involvement in missions projects," Moore said, "which have taken some of our people to such places as California, Montana and Dominica. We anticipate continued increases in gifts to associational missions and to the Cooperative Program."

A family without government is like a house without a roof, exposed to every wind that blows. — Matthew Henry

Babies are bits of stardust blown from the hand of God. — Larry Barreto

# Missionary Requests Show Evangelism Needs

(Continued from page 1)

Mission Board to send as many field evangelists as possible to their country. "In essence, they said, 'The door is open. We need field evangelists who will preach the Good News of the gospel,'" said Brasington.

A different aspect of partnership was evident in a request for a general evangelist to join another couple in beginning work in Equatorial Guinea, a small West African nation where the former ruler, an absolute dictator, reduced the nation to poverty. The other missionary couple would be sent by Spanish Baptists, who initiated the first Baptist contact in the country.

The impact of Bold Mission Thrust could be seen in requests for general evangelists and other church development specialists for follow-up of or preparation for major cities evangelization projects. The urban evangelism program is a Bold Mission effort to penetrate large metropolitan areas with the gospel.

Priority requests were made for a general evangelist, a seminary professor, a student worker and a religious education promoter in Korea, where 20,000 Koreans became Christians during crusades last June, climaxing the major cities evangelization project in that country.

But only one missionary couple for field evangelism has been appointed to Korea since 1974, in spite of unprecedented response during that time, according to George H. Hays, director for East Asia. In 1978 alone, 48 new churches were begun.

In some countries, missionaries made priority requests for general evangelists although visa problems

have prevented any new missionaries from entering the country in recent months. Missionaries in Indonesia, Bangladesh and Malaysia all have requested that new church planters try to obtain visas, said William R. Wakefield, director for South and Southeast Asia. Missionaries in Bangladesh have also requested an agricultural evangelist to carry on programs of animal husbandry, fish production and silkworm culture, development projects which could help to improve relations with the Bangladesh government.

In Africa, requests for 21 missionaries in Zimbabwe reflected renewed opportunities in a country where missionary activity had been limited by seven years of guerrilla warfare. Since the war ended and a majority government was installed last spring, the Zimbabwe mission is seeking to restore a missionary force which dwindled to half its pre-war size.

Although most requests fell into the evangelism and church development category, mission groups also made priority requests for missionaries in other fields. In health care, for example, they requested 41 career missionary physicians, 18 career nurses and 22 other career health professionals. Hospital administrators for Nalerigu, Ghana, and Barranquilla, Colombia, were singled out as especially urgent. Both Brasington and Betty Kay Abell, administrative assistant for West Africa, stressed that physicians in those hospitals have to assume administrative duties which limit their practice as physicians.

(Mary Jane Welch is an FMB staff writer.)

# G. L. Ford Will Retire

(Continued from page 1)

tor of four part-time churches in Lee County: Birmingham Ridge, Eucalyptus, Mt. Vernon, and Macedonia. "I think Earl Kelly preached his first revival, at Birmingham Ridge while I was pastor there," he recalled. Other former pastorates included Chesterfield in Lee and Mt. Olive in Chickasaw, and later Richmond in Lee.

Pulpit Committee members who invited Ford to preach at Bissell included R. B. Dyer, Luke Wages, Johnnie Witcher, and Leroy Metcalfe, all of whom have died since that time.

When he went to Bissell 35 years ago, the church was half-time, had one building, 25 enrolled in Sunday School, and gave nothing that year to missions. The pastor's salary in 1945 was \$2500.

Last year the church reported 325 total members; 250 resident members; 135 enrolled in Sunday School, with 85 average attendance; 60 enrolled in Church Training, with 40 average attendance. Of a budget of \$45,000, last year \$3500 was designated for missions.

One thing that has impeded the church's growth in numbers is that the land all around Bissell is owned by big estates, and not any of it is for sale. Hence, people can't move into the area to build houses, or start businesses.

During 35 years at Bissell, Ford has directed five building campaigns, including a parsonage in 1949, a new sanctuary in 1965, a renovation program, and a couple of annexes. At least 15 preachers have been sent out from the church in 35 years, he says. Two young men who have been licensed to preach are at present members of the church — Billy Francis and Gerald McDaniel. When they repaired Pastor Ford's car, they got as pay a promise of a Sunday to preach.

Claude Duke has been a member and deacon at Bissell for 16 years, but has known Ford much longer than that. He was ordained deacon at Chesterfield when Ford was pastor there. "I can say everything good about him," Duke said. "He's a good preacher, and a good pastor. I can't think of anything bad to say at all."

## Mississippi Baptist Activities

- Oct. 13 Church Vocation Support Conference, MSU-BSU Center, Starkville, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 13-14 Equipping and Training Area Coordinators, Baptist Building, 6:00 p.m., 13th-12:00 Noon, 14th (BRO)
- Oct. 16-17 State Handbell/Instrumental Seminar, FBC, Brandon, 6:00 p.m., 16th-2:30 p.m., 17th (CM)
- Oct. 17-19 Baptist Women Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 6:00 p.m., 17th-12:00 Noon, 19th (WNU)

# Secretaries' Seminar Offered

NASHVILLE — The first of eight Church Secretaries Certification Seminars scheduled during the 1980-81 church year will be held Oct. 27-31 at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Lucy Hoskins, consultant to church secretaries in the board's church administration department, will direct the conference, which is an opportunity for self improvement for church secretaries as well as secretaries from associations, state and denominational agencies.

In the eight years the certification program has been in effect for church secretaries, more than 1,100 have completed the basic course and nearly 170 the advanced section.

The October seminar will begin with a banquet on Monday evening and conclude at 11 a.m. on Friday. Cost for the seminar is \$45 for each person, which includes the banquet and materials required for participants.

To register, send \$45 to the Church Program Training Center, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

# Duke McCall To Speak At MC

The Division of Religion at Mississippi College will sponsor the Dr. and Mrs. Howard E. Spell Lectureship Oct. 14-16, with Duke McCall as featured lecturer.

McCall, president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will use the theme "On Being a Baptist." McCall is a native of Meridian. This past summer he was inducted as president of The Baptist World Alliance. He will address students in several Bible and philosophy classes, speak at Chapel on Wednesday at 10 a.m., and meet informally with faculty and staff. All sessions are open to the public.

McCall

# Handbell Seminar Set For Brandon

The state handbell leadership seminar is set for Oct. 16-17 at First Church, Brandon with Donald Allured as leader.

Allured is a former minister of music; now a full time handbell clinician. He is past president of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

The program begins at 10 a.m. on the 16th and concludes at noon the following day. Cost is \$10 per church.

All directors of handbell choirs and those interested in beginning a handbell choir are invited to attend.

The program will include a look at new handbell music and a demonstration of advanced handbell techniques and special effects.

For more information, write Perry Robinson, state handbell specialist, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 354-3704.

At the Social Security Administration, Adam is known as 000-00-0001; and Eve as 000-00-0002. — COPIED —

# Circulation . . .

(Continued from page 1)

forts, and we pledge that, through the years ahead of us we will do everything we can to continue to merit this confidence.

Indeed, we are humbled, We also are extremely grateful for this opportunity of service. — Donald T. McGregor

# The Baptist Record Adds 'Church Page' Members

The Baptist Record has added two new "church page" family members with Jackson's Van Winkle Baptist Church, using the back page weekly, and Warren-Yazoo Associations using it monthly.

Others already making use of the back page of the Baptist Record for their special church or associational editions are Alta Woods, Briarwood Drive, Calvary, Daniel Memorial, First Baptist, and Oak Forest, all in Jackson; plus First Baptist Churches of Brandon, Ridgeland, and Greenwood, and Hinds-Madison and Rankin associations.

Cain Lithographers, printer of the Baptist Record for more than 25 years, offers two systems for the special edi-

tion — camera ready, and typeset.

To acquaint other potential users of the special church page editions, a short introductory session will be held at the Baptist Building on Nov. 13, from 1:30-3 p.m., immediately after the last session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The session will explain estimated financial and time savings on the use of the back page, plus there will be representatives of churches using the back page already.

For more information on the back page system itself, or the introductory session, contact the Baptist Record at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 354-3704.

# Cateses To Sing In Clinton Area

Bill and Linda Cates, concert artists in the religious field, will be featured in a number of performances in the Clinton area on Oct. 12 and 13. They will sing in each of the four Baptist churches of the Clinton area on Sunday morning, Oct. 12, and at three o'clock that afternoon will be featured in full concert at the Morrison Heights Church. On Oct. 13, they will perform in chapel at Mississippi College starting at 10 a.m. in Nelson Auditorium and will present another concert in Provine Chapel at 6:15 p.m. on campus.

Every man who is high up loves to think that he has done it all himself; and the wife smiles, and lets it go at that. — James M. Barrie

## BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

WORD	SW	SLAP
AKEE	HAS	HOPE
RATS	ENG	ABET
SECRET	OF	GOOD
ESPA	REE	
CHIN	OCT	MAY
REST	IN	THE
YET	SIT	EADS
SAN	SAR	
SECRET	PLACE	
MADE	VIE	NOME
OVEN	EON	QAGS
LENT	SD	NEST

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Eph. 4:23).

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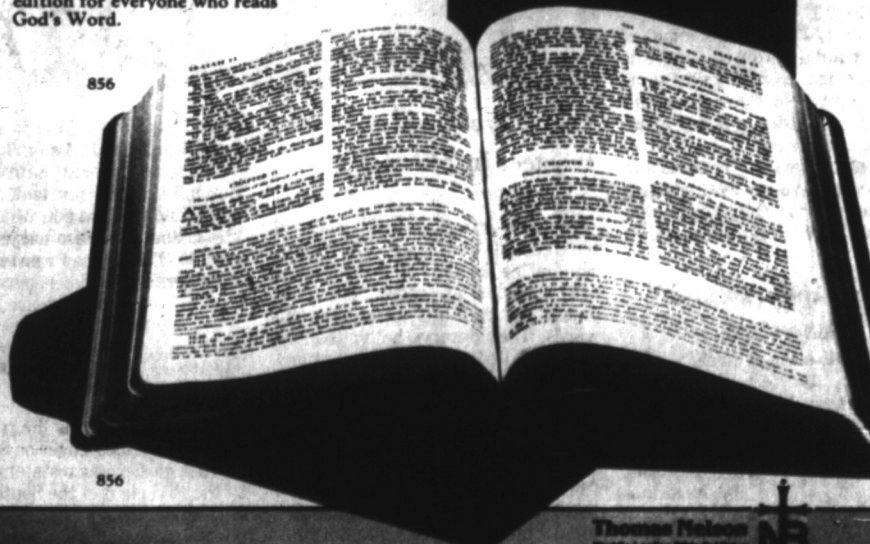
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FOR SALE: 1972 Chevrolet bus, air, 60-passenger, \$3,500; 1971 Ford bus, 66-passenger, \$2,000; 1966 International bus, 60-passenger, \$1,000; 1954 Chevrolet bus, 36-passenger, \$350; 1973 Ford van, 12-passenger, \$1,000. First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 234, West Point, MS 39773; (601) 494-4213.

POSITION OPEN: Dean, Redford School of Theology and Church Vocations Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Missouri. The dean is responsible for the quality and content of the academic program and for maintaining liaison between the school and the denomination. Nominations and letters of interest received through November 10, 1980 at Office of Academic Affairs, Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, MO 65613.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Mississippi Baptist Convention . . .

## Time to select messengers

The annual Mississippi Baptist Convention is little more than one month away. Attention should be given to the selection of messengers so that the churches affiliated with the convention will have representative groups present.

Church sizes vary greatly, of course; and there is no way to determine what an average number of messengers for each church would be. If the average were obtainable, that figure could be multiplied by the more than 1,900 churches to determine how many messengers would be possible for each convention. Each church, however, regardless of its size, is allowed to have at least two messengers. That would make a total of at least 3,800. Registration generally runs from 1,200 to 1,300.

Article III of the constitution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention estab-

lish the conditions for membership; and Section 2 of that article says: "Each such church shall be entitled to two messengers for the first hundred, or fraction thereof, of its membership, and one messenger for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, but no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers."

Thus each church is entitled to two messengers regardless of its size. Then for each additional 100 members, beginning with a major fraction of the second 100, the church is entitled to an additional messenger until the quota of 10 is reached. Thus a church of 150 members would be entitled to three messengers. For 250 the number of messengers would be four, and so on. Ten messengers would be possible for those churches with 850 or more members.

The convention begins on Tuesday

morning, Nov. 11, and goes through noon on Thursday. Naturally, it would be difficult for those in daytime jobs to attend the daytime sessions. A drive to Jackson's First Baptist Church, however, would be worthwhile for night sessions; and those folks who make that drive to attend at night would find themselves in a better position to relate missions to their churches.

The state convention is missions. One of the major items of business will be a decision on a missions budget of \$12.6 million. Many of the sessions will be directly related to missions. Missions is the primary business of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and, to a great extent, missions and the Cooperative Program are synonymous. That is the reason the \$12.6 million budget is so important. It is the Cooperative Program budget. All of that money will be used for direct mis-

sions involvement or missions support. One-third of the income will go to missions causes and missions support efforts outside of Mississippi.

Missions is the business of every individual Baptist and of every church. We could not do an efficient job in witnessing in remote areas if we were to try to do it alone. So we organize into conventions in order to be better able to spread the gospel.

This is what a convention is all about. It lasts only three days, and it is over. It is made up of those people elected by their churches to attend. These people make decisions about how to carry out missions efforts. It is important to have as many present as possible.

Churches need to begin considering who their messengers will be.

### Cooperative Program Month . . .

## The substance of the glue

It has been noted that recently someone said that he has heard about the Cooperative Program but doesn't know what it is. He is an adult and very regular in church attendance.

This points up a problem that has been with us for some time but about which little is done. That is the assumption that everyone knows what the Cooperative Program is. Obviously, this is not the case.

The missions program of the Southern Baptist Convention is the one thing about which all Southern Baptists can find a common ground of agreement, and SBC missions endeavors are financed by the Cooperative Program. Missions is the reason for having a Southern Baptist Convention (or con-

ventions, for there is one every year), and missions is the glue that holds Southern Baptists together.

It has been observed that it is not theology that holds Southern Baptists together.

Missions is the glue, and the Cooperative Program provides the substance for that glue. Thus it is a highly important facet of Southern Baptist life. There should be no Baptists who are not familiar with it; but when those who attend church services regularly do not know what it is, then someone has failed them and has failed the cause of missions.

October is Cooperative Program month. This month provides a good time to be sure that all Southern Bapt-

tists who are in worship services are made aware of what the Cooperative Program is and what its role is in the Lord's Kingdom.

For 55 years the Cooperative Program has been providing for more extensive missions work and giving more stability to missions work for Southern Baptists than is possible under any other system. When Baptists think about the Great Commission, they think about the Cooperative Program.

New faces become a part of missions work, and familiar names fade from the scene; but the Cooperative Program continues to provide the continuing stability. New missions programs come along to meet the needs of a new

day, and the Cooperative Program continues its ministry of provision.

New members become part of church rolls, and many of them are unfamiliar with the Cooperative Program. A part of the overall missions endeavor is to be consistent in the promotion and explanation of the Cooperative Program.

This great missions ministry is not without its detractors in these days of super churches and electronic evangelists. But the Lord said to go into ALL the world; and if we are going to heed that commission, we might as well do it in the best fashion possible.

That means through the ministry of the Cooperative Program.

### Guest Opinion . . .

## The Cooperative Program speaks

By Albert McClellan

Associate Executive Secretary, SBC  
Missions calls for a plan. Baptists have a plan called the Cooperative Program. Let it speak for itself:

I am the Cooperative Program.  
Yes, I am MONEY.

I am your tithes and your offerings given from full hearts and dedicated lives.

Dollars from great fortunes, dollars from wheat sold, dollars from a day's labor in a cotton mill.

Dollars from the working people of great America.

I come from drug stores and filling stations.

I come from factories and mines.

I come from stocks and bonds and money saved.

I come from retirement income.

I am dedicated money.

I belong to God and I am a part of the great hope for his will being done on earth.

By the time I come together I am \$165 million dollars.

Yes, I am money, sacred money given freely by free people to the world's most sacred cause.

But I am more than money.

I am PEOPLE.

I am over 2,000 state missionaries seeking to build a church on every hill of our homeland. I am working summer and winter to strengthen the cause of Jesus Christ in every home and every community.

I am 6,148 teachers in 71 colleges and seminaries endeavoring by God's help to make our nation a Christian nation.

I am nearly 3,000 foreign missionaries

carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth.

I pray in Japan and Africa. I work from early morning to late evening in Arabia and Italy.

I am nearly 3,000 home missionaries who witness to the Indians, the Spanish, the Negro and other minorities in our own country.

I am a lonely missionary keeping watch by a sick Navajo 100 miles from a doctor.

Yes, I am people. I am the countless thousands won to Christ, the frustrated men given new hope, the tired weeping women given new songs, the fast growing children given new life, all because of a new knowledge of Christ, all because of your gifts and love.

Also, I am WORK.

Hard work, laboring for long years unnoticed and without results. I am a long journey into the wilderness to find a lonely Eskimo family that needs Jesus.

I am a teacher teaching one day after another, week in and week out, helping young people learn the power

of the Scripture in original Greek and ancient Hebrew.

I am an evangelist preaching night and day, month in and month out, away from home, never ceasing in my appeal to lost humanity.

I am a lonely doctor in a foreign land standing beside an operating table until I could fall to the floor, ministering to the impoverished and sick millions.

I am a quiet unknown woman who waits in the night beside the beds of twenty little orphan children while they say their prayers and to tell me their troubles.

Who criticize me criticize dedicated hearts.

Who blasphemes me blasphemes one of the Holy Spirit's way of doing missions.

Who transgresses me transgresses the sacred moment when a great people called Baptists touches lost, broken, undone humanity.

But this is to all, who robs me robs God.

The Cooperative Program is YOU.

It is you poured out through what you give to the world.

It is not how much you give that counts, but how well you give.

It is how much you give in proportion to what you can give.

If you give all you can, your partnership with God is mighty.

If you give with a tight mean fist, your partnership is a denial. You have disappointed God's confidence in you as a builder of his kingdom.

I am you at work trying to save the world before it is wrecked by the spiritual blindness of the nations.

Yes, I am you, your voice, endeavoring to show that the world is not controlled by blind force by spiritual power. The world does have a purpose and moral order.

I am your glorious song shouting, "All hail the power of Jesus name."

Yes, I am you at work everywhere and all the time to prove that he shall reign.

I am Southern Baptists' greatest expression of conquest and unity.

I am the Cooperative Program.

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The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention.

### The Character of the Trustees in SBC Life

Editor: The men and women who serve as trustees of our Southern Baptist seminaries, as well as those of other SBC agencies, are responsible, competent and committed Christian stewards. They deserve better than unfair and ill-informed accusations. They deserve support through prayer, advice, and counsel.

Our trustees are fully representative of Southern Baptist life and fellowship. They are Bible-believing, Christ-honoring, soul-winning Baptists! They serve as leaders in their local churches. They support and promote the world-wide missions outreach of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program, at the association, state and national levels.

Any attack which vilifies the character of our trustees, boards and commissions is an attack on the integrity of all Southern Baptists. It jeopardizes the essential nature of our fellowship at every level and is an insult to those who support the Cooperative Program through sacrificial giving. It should be repudiated by Southern Baptists with an appropriate reaffirmation of all those dedicated men and women who serve Southern Baptists so well!

(Signed)  
Russell Dilday, Jr., President, Southwestern Seminary; Milton Fer-

guson, President, Midwestern Seminary; Landrum P. Leavell, II, President, New Orleans Seminary; W. Randall Lolley, President, Southeastern Seminary; Duke K. McCall, President, Southern Seminary; and William M. Pinson, Jr., President, Golden Gate Seminary.

### "Does Not Speak For Me"

Editor: This letter concerns the recent article in the *Clarion Ledger* on September 19, 1980, concerning a statement made by the President of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Bailey Smith was quoted as saying "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew."

It is frightening that a representative of the largest Protestant denomination in the United States has taken it upon himself to decide what God does and does not do. There are some churches where the minister inflicts his values and personal prejudices on a congregation and presents these, often narrow minded views, as God's Word. However, it is appalling that a key leader for all Baptists decides to place severe limitations on God and His infinite wisdom.

I am thankful that I had the opportunity to grow up in a Baptist church whose minister taught only God's Word and recognized God as the indisputable Master of unlimited and unde-

fined capabilities. I am especially thankful that Dr. Bailey Smith does not speak for me.

Susan Wilson Jackson

### West Virginia Missions

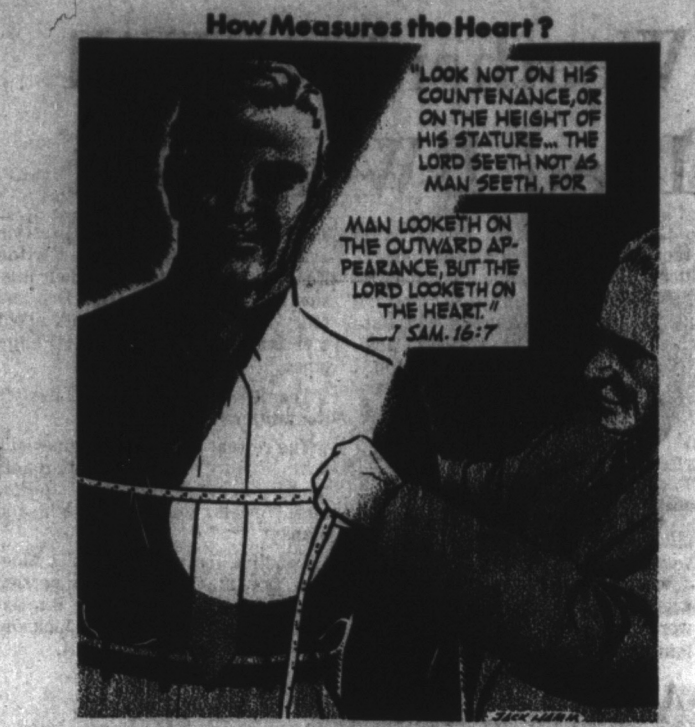
Editor: We have been called by Calvary Baptist Church (S.B.C.), Grafton, West Virginia as director of missions. For over 40 years Mrs. Wade and I served Baptist churches in North Central Mississippi. We were at Vaiden over 16 years and retired there Feb. 1, 1960.

The Lord opened this opportunity for us to come to West Virginia and have a little part in Bold Mission Thrust. We will be attempting to begin a new work here at Philippi. We are receiving financial support from Carroll-Montgomery Associations, Calvary Baptist Church (Jon Caudle, pastor), and West Virginia S.B.C. Missions Department (Floyd Tidsworth, director).

Please print a note in the *Baptist Record* about our work here and ask all our friends in Mississippi to pray for us.

Love, joy and peace thru Jesus Christ our Lord.

John A. and Rosa Wade  
P.O. Box 546  
Philippi, W. VA 26416



## A Silver Weekend

"How are you?" my pastor, Dr. Kermit McGregor, asked the other Sunday night after church. "Tired," I answered. How could I have given such a drab reply, at the end of a weekend that glowed with joy, like polished silver?

Saturday afternoon, Sept. 27, my family gave a reception for W. D. and me at our house. Since we don't have any children, my sister Betty Brown and her children and their spouses, Karen and Tom, Tom and Susan, Luann and Bubba, decided to do this in celebration of our silver wedding anniversary, along with Mama, who thinks she won't be around on our 50th — though she might very well be, as she would only be 97. They said they planned to surprise us, but then decided I might want to do some house cleaning in advance. It's a good thing they told us by mid-summer, so we could do five years' worth of painting and repair in six weeks' time.

W. D. and I got married on Sept. 25, 1955, a Sunday afternoon, in the chapel of First Baptist Church, Jackson. My three bridesmaids, Rosa Hooper and Mildred Harrington and Betty, wore green and carried gold mums arranged by Daphne Prigden. The flower girl, Cynthia Nettles, wore white; her dress a replica of mine. My veil I had bought in Brussels that summer, during a trip to Europe that almost broke our engagement, because W. D. didn't want me to go away for ten weeks. Dr. Douglas Huggins, our pastor at that time, spoke the words that made the ceremony legal.

W. D.'s handsome younger brother, Speedy, 6'5" tall, was his best man. (W. D. has a scar across the palm of his hand, incurred by Speedy when they were boys playing together. Speedy, with an axe, told W. D. to lay his hand on the chop block and he'd cut it off. W. D. did as commanded — and Speedy chopped!)

After 25 years I look back on that

sunlit wedding day. If I had known then all I know now, I would still say "I do" as firmly.

Shortly after our first anniversary at 1039 Monroe St., Jackson, we had our first real quarrel. I got fighting mad when he determined to go fishing, and thus spoiled my big plans for that weekend. I had not suspected I would share him with formidable rivals, the hook and line. Later, as I heard him reminisce about fishing in a drainage ditch as a boy, using a safety pin for a hook, I realized that fishing meant to him what reading meant to me, so I could understand.

Fifteen anniversaries passed while we lived at 3556 North Hines St., before we moved to Clinton. Anybody who knows us knows that our life was not one big bed of roses. Financial difficulties, illnesses, lots of problems, came along — sometimes almost enough to swamp us — but you know, looking backward, the good times now I remember a lot more than the bad ones.

Our fifth anniversary we spent at the Markham Hotel in Gulfport. Our 16th we were snowbound in Greeley, Colo. We ate all our meals in the motel room that day, looking out the window at a world blanketed in white. On our 25th, I asked W. D., "Do you love me just as much now as you did 25 years ago?" He said, "More — much more," and I could honestly answer: "Never have I loved you as much as I love you now!"

On our wedding night in 1955 we knelt at the old Irving Inn near Meridian, and asked God's blessing on our marriage. Last week we tried to list the blessings God has bestowed on us. Soon we realized how endless such a list would be.

After 25 years, it is tempting to say, "We've arrived!" but I know obstacles could cause us to stumble, like a lot of other folks. I hope that with each passing day we will never forget to renew our vows "to love and to cherish. . ."

## Book Reviews

**FIRE IN THE CANEBRAKE** by Reuben Herring (Broadman, 228 pp., \$4.95) Here is a new novel by the editor of *Home Life*. It's a gripping story of rugged pioneer life in early America. Luke Miller, his wife Mary, and their teenage son Silas travel with an endangered wagon train. Luke, a former tavern keeper turned preacher, discovers that preaching to a small camp meeting can be more dangerous than hunting wild bears. Luke's wife dies; his son is kidnapped. Yet despite this and all the dangers on the trail, he continues to press toward Kentucky with hope for a new start.

**MISSION FOR LIFE, THE STORY OF THE FAMILY OF ADONIRAM JUDSON** by Jean Jacobs Brumberg (The Free Press, a division of Macmillan, \$12.95, 382 pp.) This is the dramatic story of an important evangelical family. Spanning two generations, the Judsons helped to establish evangelicalism as the dominant religious movement in 19th century America. The author of this work traces the Judson family saga, from Adoniram's New England roots, his founding of the first American foreign missionary enterprise and his harsh experiences in Asia, through Edward Judson, second generation evangelist, founder of the Judson Memorial Church in New York City and close friend of the Rockefellers. **MISSION FOR LIFE** is also a tale about outstanding women — Ann Hasseltine, Sarah Boardman, and Emily Chubbuck Judson. It is a well-documented study of the early missionary movement. The Judsons are portrayed against the backdrop of industrialization, immigration, the new technology, and the struggle for women's rights.

**HUMOROUS NOTES, QUOTES, AND ANECDOTES** by Leslie and Bernice Flynn (Baker, paper, \$3.45, 171 pp.) Over 500 brief anecdotes are classified and indexed for ready reference. The book would be useful to speakers at receptions, reunions, din-

ners, etc. or for use as fillers in newsletters or church bulletins. Leslie Flynn is pastor of Grace Conservative Baptist Church, Nanuet, New York.

### Your Church Needs A Budget

The principles of church budgeting have been set forth in several concise observations.

The church budget is a plan to distribute God's money, not a plot to get man's money.

It is a goal to inspire us, not a goad to discomfort us.

It is a map to guide us, not a trap to catch us.

It is a measure of Christian sharing, not a meddler in personal affairs.

It is a missionary undertaking, not a hit or miss plan of giving.

It is a commitment to healing global ills, not just a means of paying local bills.

It is a mirror of our concern, not a monitor for our coercion. Your church budget is all this and more. It speaks of fairness, good business, compassionate ministries and of encouraging your church to determine its objectives. Items are not mere budget matters but ministries to be performed.

Check again. Do we need a family budget? Is my church budget a real concern for my family? — W. Guy Henderson, Consultant, Stewardship.

Give me the life of the boy whose mother is nurse, seamstress, washer-woman, cook, teacher, angel, and saint, all in one, and whose father is guide, exemplar, and friend. No servants to come between. These are the boys who are born to the best fortune. — Andrew Carnegie

Nothing can compare in beauty, and wonder, and admirableness, and divinity itself, to the silent work in obscure dwelling of faithful women bringing their children to honor and virtue and piety. — Henry Ward Beecher



# Mancil Ezell Will Speak At Librarians' Banquet

Mancil Ezell, director, Church Media/Library department, Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak at the banquet during the ninth annual Mississippi Baptist Library/Media Workshop. The meeting will be Oct. 24-25 at First Church, Greenville, from 1 p.m. Friday through noon Saturday. (Registration begins at 11 a.m. Friday.) The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. Friday evening.

Others from Nashville on program are Jacquelyn Anderson, Keith Mee, and James Rose. Ezell will also lead a promotions workshop.

Peggy Tacon of Mobile, Ala. will direct a workshop on book repair. Mrs. W. H. Hight of First Church, Louisville, and Mrs. Edwin R. Lewis of First Church, Columbus, will teach in conferences on "What To Do With Odds & Ends."

Mrs. C. H. Wood, Louisville, president of the Mississippi Baptist Library Association, said that banquet reservations should be in by Oct. 17, but that the price for the banquet ticket (\$4.25) may be paid at the door. The reserva-

tion requests should be mailed to Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Anita Bryant Cut From Citrus Promos

MIAMI (EP via RNS) — Anita Bryant, the professional singer who rallied evangelical Christians and others to defeat a 1977 homosexual rights ordinance in Miami, has been cut from the payroll as a television advertising booster for the Florida oranges.

Miss Bryant had survived repeated rumors that her political activities would lead to a cancellation of the contract with the Florida Citrus Commission.

But citrus commission officials instead cited Miss Bryant's recent divorce as a major factor in their decision to drop her. The expired \$100,000 contract has been made with a Miami production company run by Bob Green whom Miss Bryant divorced in August.

# Grubbs Accepts New Position

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — W. Eugene Grubbs, former consultant for laymen overseas and relief ministries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been named executive director of Interchurch Medical Assistance Inc., in New York City.

Interchurch Medical Assistance was created in 1961 by mission boards and relief agencies of several Protestant denominations to procure and distribute pharmaceutical, medical and hospital supplies for their medical mission work, Grubbs said.

Grubbs announced his Aug. 31 resignation from the Foreign Mission Board in March so the board could be aware of his plans as it prepared for major reorganization which took place this spring and summer.

Eighteen member organizations provide staff support and operating expenses for the agency, which also provides supplies to about 30 non-member organizations.

## Algoma Church To Observe 75th Year

Algoma Church, Pontotoc County, will observe its 75th anniversary on Oct. 12. Eudene Tutor is interim pastor.

Featured speaker will be Kermit D. McGregor, pastor, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. McGregor was ordained by the Algoma Church on the first Sunday of October, 1955. At the same time the church observes its 75th anniversary, McGregor will observe 25 years in the ministry.

On October 3, 1905, Algoma Church was organized with 24 charter members. For the next ten years, preaching was held in the school building, which still stands. In October, 1915, the present building was built on land given to the church by H. B. Owen.

In addition to the message by McGregor at 10 a.m., there will be special music. Descendants of charter and early members will be recognized. Lunch will be served at 12. The afternoon service to begin at 1:30 will include recognition of former members and pastors and the reading of the history.

# Staff Changes

Carl Nelson has resigned as pastor of Pelahatchie Church to accept a pastorate in Oklahoma. He and his wife Martha have moved to Route 2, Purcell, Okla. 73084.

P. A. Michel has resigned the pastorate of First Church, Brookhaven, to accept the pastorate of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, TN.

Michael Burczynski, formerly pastor at Longview Church, Pontotoc County, has moved to the pastorate of the Tate Street Church, Corinth. He and his wife Claire now live at 1708 Highland Drive in Corinth.

Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, has called Mike Snowden as minister of music and youth. Snowden is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He and his wife Vickie have a son Michael. They live in Gulfport. Russell Naron is pastor.



**The Nichols Family**  
Jon Nichols is the new associate pastor at the First Church, Madisonville, La. He and his wife Frances have four daughters, Terry, Donna, Nicole and Heather. Nichols is a student at the New Orleans Seminary. He is a native of Meridian and has been ordained at State Boulevard Church there.

Jim Jackson assumed his duties as minister of music and youth at Calvary Church, Oak Grove on Sept. 21. Jackson received his college education in Georgia and is presently Chief of Field Office, Federal Aviation Administration, with offices at Pine Belt Regional Airport.

In recent years he has organized groups and made seven mission trips to Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada,

California and other points. He has also been active in the weekend ministry sponsored by the Lebanon Baptist Association at Johnson State Park.

Before going to Calvary, Jackson served at Sunrise Church. He, his wife Nancy and children, Alan and Renee, and foster children, Hattie Maxey and Kip Cooper, were honored with a reception.

Jerry Watts has resigned as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church in Chickasaw County. Watts is available for revivals, supply or interim work. He may be contacted at Rt. 1, New Albany, Miss. or telephone 534-7590.

Walter Hines has resigned as pastor of Bowlin Church, Attala County. He has served there since January, 1977.

Ebenezer Church, DeSoto County, has called Richard Henderson as full-time pastor. Henderson will continue teaching at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

Barney Baggeley of Wilmer, Ala. is serving as interim pastor for Bexley Church (George-Greene).

## Revival Dates

**Harrisburg Church (Simpson):** Oct. 19-24: Truman Scarborough of Crowder Church, evangelist; Floyd Grice of Bogue Chitto, music evangelist; services Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Gene Erwin, pastor.

**Hillcrest, Lucedale:** Oct. 19-25; 7 nightly; Kenneth Goff, evangelist, from Mendenhall; dinner-on-the-grounds Sunday; singers are "The Lovelaces"; William A. McWilliams, pastor.

**Causeyville, Meridian:** Oct. 12-17; James Fancher, full-time evangelist, Jackson, preaching; J. B. Marsha, and Mary Betts, full-time music evangelists, Memphis, Tenn., musicians; services Sunday 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. plus dinner on the ground; weekdays 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Ron Mercer, pastor.

**Unity Church, Moselle:** Oct. 12-19; J. C. Murphy of Laurel, evangelist; Joel Murphy, music director; J. M. Foy, interim pastor; Sunday morning at 10:45; each evening at 7. On Sunday, Oct. 12, the church's new building will be dedicated at the morning service, and dinner will be served at the church.



Algoma Church will observe its 75th anniversary Oct. 12. Pictured are Eudene Tutor, interim pastor, Mrs. Ruby Martin, historian, Mrs. Myrtle Barlow, secretary, and Mrs. Diane Bridgman, who are checking membership in the first church roll, and discussing plans for the anniversary.

## Homecomings

**Tyre Church, Aaron Lewis, pastor,** will hold homecoming day Sunday, Oct. 12. After the regular morning service, dinner will be served on the ground at 12:45. A special service will begin at 2 p.m. Tyro is in Tate County.

**New Hope Church, Lawrence County,** will observe homecoming on October 12. Talmadge Smith, a former pastor at New Hope, will bring the morning message. Lunch will be served. The afternoon service will be one of singing. The pastor is Drew Blanton. Maggie Lou Wilson is Homecoming Committee chairman.

**New Hope Church (Leake)** will observe homecoming on Oct. 12. Activities will include: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service 11 a.m.; dinner-on-the ground, noon; gospel singing, 1:30 p.m. featuring a trio from First Church, Carthage.

Danny Moss, pastor at New Hope, 1968-69, will deliver the morning message. Moss is pastor of Springfield Church in Leake Association and is also a student at New Orleans Sem-

nary. Jimmy Young is New Hope pastor and David Pickel is music director.

**Mt. Vernon Church, Leflore County,** will have homecoming on Oct. 12. The service at 11 a.m. will present a former pastor as speaker. Lunch will be served in the church reception hall. Special singing will be featured in the afternoon. L. E. Moon, Sr. is pastor.

**Causeyville Church (Lauderdale)** will have homecoming, Oct. 12. James Fancher will be the morning speaker. Dinner will be served on the grounds. Afternoon services will begin at 1:30 with a music program presented by J. B. Marsha, and Mary Betts; Tommy Brill; Buddy McElroy, minister of music; and Causeyville Choir. Ron Mercer is pastor.

**Clear Branch, Rankin County,** has announced plans for homecoming day Oct. 12. Barney Walker will bring the morning message at 11. Dinner will be served on the grounds, followed by an afternoon song service. Roger Lee is pastor.

# Just For The Record



DEACONS AND PASTOR OF BLACKWATER CHURCH, KEMPER COUNTY, burned the note for a recently constructed fellowship hall. Front row, left to right: Mickey Sanders, Arnold Davis, Bill Griffin, and Winter Pace. Second row: Bob Egbert and Charles Quinnelly. Back row: Curtis M. Dyer, Jr. (pastor) and James Limerick. Absent: Eugene McCoy, Chuck Sorrels, David Sorrels, and Cliff Parker.



FIRST CHURCH, McCOMB recently recognized everyone who had served in Sunday School for 25 years or more. Each worker was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Harold D. Fleming, minister of education.

There were 39 workers who had served over 25 years. Five were recognized for 50 years or more of faithful service. Three of these are still actively working in Sunday School. Four were recognized for 40 to 49 years of service. They are all still actively working. Fourteen were recognized for 30 to 39 years of service. Sixteen were recognized for 25 to 29 years of service.

Pictured are 28 of the workers recognized. Only eight of the workers were unable to attend.

## Truth Will Sing At Northeast JC

Truth will sing at Northeast Mississippi Junior College on Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. Their appearance will be a part of the Baptist Student Union's Outreach '80 Evangelistic Week, Oct. 13-17.

Larry Wimberly, associate BSU director, said that the public is invited to the concert.

Truth, 18 college-age musicians constantly on the road, has six singers and a miniature orchestra with nine instrumentalists. They are led by Roger Breland.

A happy family is but an earlier heaven. — Sir John Bowring

**Panajachel, Guatemala** — Missionary family needs, although influenced by culture, are similar to those of every family. Bill Blackburn told 50 missionaries from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua at a three-day family enrichment conference at Panajachel, Guatemala. There are, however, problems unique to the missionary family, such as concern for children who must study far from home, said the associate director of the Christian Life Commission of the Texas Baptist convention. On the other hand, missionary families spend more leisure time together than the average American family, he said. A nine-member Bold Venture team from Leawood (Kan.) Baptist Church directed activities for 43 missionary children.

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- 52 Religious season  
53 State: abbr.  
54 In the cedars (Jer. 22:23)
- DOWN**
- 1 "which — against the soul" (1 Pet. 2)  
2 Russian river: poss.  
3 Plexus  
4 Not counted (Heb. 7:6)  
5 Sold in the temple (John 2:14)  
6 "supply for their —" (2 Cor. 8)  
7 The Hararite (1 Chron. 11:34)  
8 Gray wolf  
9 Mimicked  
10 Favorite  
11 "So — men with fire" (Rev. 16)  
12 Rupees: abbr.  
13 Gals.  
14 "there arose a great —" (Acts 23)  
15 Half of a guffaw  
16 Suffix for capital or federal  
17 Baseball great  
18 Extinct bird  
19 Father of the Ardites (Num. 26:40)  
20 Distance measures: abbr.  
21 Danube tributary  
22 "men of —" (Luke 11:32)  
23 Country (Zech. 10:10)  
24 Fragrance  
25 "will very gladly —" (2 Cor. 12)  
26 Indian mulberry  
27 Redeem  
28 Paradise  
29 Spanish uncle: poss.  
30 Center  
31 East Indian trees  
32 Gram molecule  
33 Calculate approx.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Let it dwell in you (Col. 3:16)  
2 Compass reading: abbr.  
3 Word with dash or stick  
4 West Indian tree  
5 Possession  
6 Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 1:1)  
7 Betrays  
8 Abbreviation in a letter  
9 Encourage  
10 "the — was upon my tobacco" (Job 29)  
11 Sense, of a sort  
12 Sandpiper  
13 Chinese dynasty  
14 Fall month: abbr.  
15 Day or blossom  
16 " — — — — —, and wait" (Psa. 37)
- 34 "heart — hardened" (Mark 8:17)  
35 " — — — — — on my right hand" (Heb. 1)  
36 American bridge builder  
37 — — — — —  
38 Day of worship: abbr.  
39 Darkness (Psa. 18:11; 2 words)  
40 "we should be — heirs" (Tit. 3)  
41 Strive  
42 "baptized —" (1 Cor. 1:14)  
43 Heated by the baker (Hos. 7:4)  
44 Cosmic cycle  
45 Business and political abbr.

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Answers on page 3



## Comes In The News



Jimmy R. Allen (right), president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, and Bailey Smith, (center) president of the Southern Baptist Convention, demonstrate one of the Commission's mini-cams to Commission trustee J. Clark Hensley, Hensley, who directs Mississippi's Christian Action Commission, represents Mississippi on the Radio and Television Commission board.

Vincent and Olive Appleton are serving in the pastorate of Kitzingen Baptist Church in Germany. His pastorates have ranged from Kentucky, Indiana, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Iowa, to the Arabian Peninsula. Also he has served as an army chaplain. She is a graduate of Mississippi College, and has taught school.

Boyd Smith and Floyd Smith, 22-year-old twin brothers from Lambert, were licensed to the gospel ministry on Aug. 31, by First Church, Lambert. The Smiths have been involved in church work for several years and both have served as summer missionaries. They currently attend Delta State University. They are the sons of Mrs. Marie Smith of Lambert and the late Mr. Smith.



ALLAN SINGLETARY of BLACKWATER CHURCH, KEMPER COUNTY, has received his license to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Shown with Singletary is his wife, Vickie. Curtis Dyer, pastor, right, made the presentation. At Blackwater during the past five years four men and their families have answered God's call to preach His word.

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## Uniform Lesson

### God's Covenant, Israel's Sin

By Jack Glaze, Chairman  
Division of Religion, MC  
I Kings 11:1-13, 24-40; 12:25-33; 14  
Lesson Background: The books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings form a basic literary unit. The history of Israel is traced from the Israelite invasion of Canaan (ca. 1240 B.C.) to King Jehoiachin's favorable treatment in captivity by the Babylonian king Evil-Merodach (ca. 560 B.C.). This literary complex, known as the "Deuteronomistic History," judges the historical events in the light of obedience or disobedience to the covenant. Although God promised David that his dynasty would be established forever, it was a conditional promise. If David's son committed iniquity, he would be chastened, but God's mercy would not be taken away from him as it was from Saul.

The "deuteronomistic historian" skillfully blended the ancient original sources as he interpreted the tragic failure of his beloved people.

Solomon's genius evidently lay in the commercial area. He exploited Israel's favorable geographic position astride the major trade routes of the Near East. His fame and wealth became proverbial. However, his extensive building projects sorely taxed the existing resources. In order to meet his ever-expanding monetary needs, Solomon reorganized the nation into twelve administrative districts and imposed heavy taxation. Conscript or forced labor battalions were instituted (cf. I Kings 5:13f). His administrative decisions affected adversely the traditional tribal structure of Israel and were bitterly opposed by many freedom loving Israelites. As the commercial enterprise was added onto Israel's agrarian and pastoral society, foreign influences were strongly felt. Solomon's oriental harem swelled as his diplomatic and international trade relations were sealed by intermarriage. The day of the simple tribal league had been replaced by a monarchy built on the contemporary secular pattern.

The new political and social structures sorely threatened the religious heritage of Israel. The austere desert covenant faith with its moral law was replaced by a broad tolerance. The attractive foreign materialism and sensual worship appealed to popular sentiment. At the same time, had not God chosen David and Zion? The temptation was strong to hallow the state in the name of God and support the new order as divinely ordained. Once again

prophetic voices reminded the nation and leaders of the conditional nature of the covenant. The inspired prophetic historian faced openly the tragic consequences of Solomon's apostasy: he who began so nobly as an evident champion of the covenant faith ended as a promoter of foreign paganism. Even if he maintained his personal commitment to Yahweh (Jehovah), he paved the way for religious syncretism and national apostasy.

The Lesson Outlined:

I. Solomon's Idolatry (I Kings 11:1-8)

1. Foreign Wives (1-3). The large harem was evidence of Solomon's wealth and effective foreign policy. However, he increasingly enjoyed the foreign influences — and women (v. 1). His tolerance undermined his loyalty to Yahweh, Israel's redeemer.

2. Foreign Worship (4-8). The insidious foreign influence gradually undermined Solomon's religious convictions. His loyalties became divided in his old age (v. 4). He built chapels to foreign gods to please his foreign wives and then joined in the idolatrous practices. "Ashtoreth," or Ashtarte was considered to be the fertility goddess and consort of Baal, the Canaanite agricultural god of the storm (rain). The name, Ashtoreth, was a deliberate misspelling. The author used the vowels of the Hebrew word "bosheth," which means "shame."

The cult of "sacred prostitutions" (Ashtarte) was a "bosheth," or a moral shame!

II. God's Judgment (11:9-13)

1. The divine anger (9-10). Solomon had deliberately turned away from God. Judgment was inevitable. The conditional clause of the Davidic covenant was applied (II Samuel 7:14-15). Twice God had appeared to Solomon, and that made his idolatry more serious! This was a high handed sin against knowledge. He loved the foreign women more than God!

2. The divine decree (11-13). Because Solomon did not keep the covenant, his kingdom would be divided. God had clearly informed him of his responsibility (I Kings 9:6-9). However, the judgment would come after his death (v. 12), and only one tribe would remain for David's sake (v. 13). The one tribe loyal to the Davidic dynasty was Judah. There is some uncertainty as to the other tribe that remained loyal, for the Old Testament consistently speaks of the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom and one tribe in the South (cf. I Kings 11:29-32). Some

authorities suggest that Judah absorbed Simeon. Other references imply Judah and Benjamin.

John Alexander, director, Stewardship department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is working with the European Baptist Convention while taking a four-month sabbatical leave. The newest issue of "Highlights," news bulletin of the European Baptist Convention (English-language), carries a stewardship column written by Alexander.



W. S. Boland, right, looks at plaque presented by Pastor Haik, left.



C. J. McKenzie, right, receives plaque from his pastor, Peter Haik. Center background is Mrs. McKenzie. To her left and next to McKenzie is Mrs. Florence Richardson, Mr. McKenzie's sister. Another sister, Mrs. Laura Alexander, was also present.

### Arcola Honors Two

Arcola Church recently honored two men who served the church as deacons for a combined total of over a century. C. J. McKenzie has been a deacon for 54 years and W. S. Boland for nearly 50 years. Each was presented a plaque in his home, with several members of the church present. The plaques "gratefully recognized" each as "deacon emeritus," and expressed appreciation for many years of service.

Wives of the deacons were present when the plaques were presented by Peter Haik, the Arcola pastor. Neither family knew they were to be so recognized.



authorities suggest that Judah absorbed Simeon. Other references imply Judah and Benjamin.

III. The Division of the Kingdom (I Kings 11:26-40; 12:25-33)

1. The revolt of the northern tribes (I Kings 12:1-20) Following the democratic heritage of the tribal league (cf. Judges), Saul and David had assumed the throne with divine-prophetic anointing, demonstration of divine empowering (charisma), and public (tribal) selection (acclaim). The Davidic dynasty changed the pattern; however, an attempt was made to maintain a semblance of the accepted tradition in Solomon's ascension to the throne (II Kings 1:43-46), and at his death, Rehoboam went for confirmation to Shechem, the ancient center of the tribal league (12:1). Unfortunately, he did not offer to alleviate the unpopular repressive measures of his father. As a result, the northern tribes withdrew their allegiance from the house of David (12:16), and, according to the tribal pattern mentioned above, selected Jeroboam as their king.

2. The apostasy of Jeroboam (12:25-33). Fearing pilgrimages of the northern tribes to Jerusalem for religious reasons, Jeroboam established two rival worship centers in the north at Bethel and Dan (v. 29).

Once again, as in the days of Aaron, the golden calves reappeared as the physical symbols of the deliverance from Egypt (v. 28). If the Southern Kingdom had the Davidic covenant as its theological basis for existence, the Northern Kingdom would claim the Sinai Covenant as their religious heritage! However, once again the tragedy of compromise, accommodation, and syncretism mixed Yahwehism with pagan idolatry.

The Lesson Applied: 1. Carelessness about things of vital importance leads to tolerance of things that are destructive. 2. Prosperity brings additional temptation. 3. The principle of cause and effect is applicable in life; faithfulness to God's covenant results in divine direction in life; disobedience brings punishment. 4. Material prosperity does not solve the deepest needs of man. 5. Temptation to turn from God can come at any age. 6. False religion in strategic places can lead a nation astray. 7. The righteousness of leaders is vital for national well being. 8. God is faithful to His word of blessing or judgment.

## Wayne Women Give 1,000 Lb. Food For Coast

The Wayne Baptist Association Women's Missionary Union sponsored a "Christmas in August" drive for canned foods for the Indian ministry in Pascagoula, where Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd Harjo, Indians, are missionaries. Somewhere near 1,000 pounds of food were given.

Also, as a part of the project, the Clarke Association joined with the Wayne Association in sending clothing to the Indian ministry, The House of Grace, and the Seaman's Center. The Home and Garden Club in Wayne County joined the project in sending Reader's Digest to the House of Grace, and the Seaman's Center.

The director of missions for the Clarke and Wayne Associations, Grady Crowell; Mr. and Mrs. Harlis G. Martin; and the Wayne Association WMU director, Mrs. William Bayne, delivered the goods to the Coast.

"A very warm thank you came from the recipients," said Mrs. Bayne.

### Concert At Carey

Dallas Holm and Praise will give a concert Saturday, Oct. 11, in Thomas Hall Auditorium on the campus of William Carey College at 7 p.m.

### Devotional

## Going About Doing Good

By Howard E. Spell, Dean Emeritus, Mississippi College

Acts 10:38

Because of an unusual vision at Joppa and following God's leadership Simon Peter went up to Caesarea in answer to the invitation of Cornelius. In speaking to him and the close friends and relatives he had invited together, Simon Peter told them of the ministry of Jesus Christ and said, among other things, "He went about doing good." We are not unmindful of the fact that Christ came into the world that he might reveal God to people and to die a sacrificial death that believers might be saved, but we should also think about his earthly ministry and how he went about doing good.

He went about doing good by believing in people. Who would have thought of selecting a group of ordinary men rather than trained religious leaders to become his apostles and the nucleus of the Christian movement? Jesus Christ did because he believed in people even though he knew their frailties.

He went about doing good by teaching. To be sure, many of his learners (disciples) were reluctant to accept and act on some of the truths he tried to teach them, but he did not give up. He still tries to teach us by inviting us to take his yoke upon us and learn of him, but we are also reluctant to accept his teachings. Sometimes we seem to be afraid they would cost us too much.

Our Lord went about doing good by placing emphasis on the worth of children. The late Gaines S. Dobbins was wont to say that one of the most significant events in the life of Jesus Christ was that day when he sat a child in the midst of the people and focused their attention on the worth of children. We seem to be demonstrating that we either cannot or will not do much about practicing ethical and religious principles, but we can have hope that today's children may grow up to develop a better world.

Furthermore, he went about doing good by setting an example. He showed us how to live. It is much easier to follow someone to a certain place than it is to follow directions about how to get there. We may have trouble envisioning honesty and justice in abstract, but when we see these ideas embodied in the life of a person, we can better understand. If we were to resolve to do a Christ-like act every day, we would find ourselves doing good.

## Holly Church, Corinth, Reaches 100

Holly Church, Corinth, once called Cane Creek, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

A series of anniversary services began on Wednesday night and continued through Sunday afternoon. Six men who left Holly to enter the preaching or music ministry returned to participate in the services. They are: Otis Hinton, pastor, First Church, Obion, Tenn.; Gary Watkins, pastor, Hillview Heights Church, Bowling Green, Ky.; Jimmy Talley, pastor, E. Pleasant Grove Church, Quitman; Taft

Nethery, evangelist, Corinth; Billy Dan Taylor, minister of music, Calvary Church, Corinth; and Billy Spencer, minister of music and youth, Germantown Church, Germantown, Tenn.

Chester Wayne Harrison, who recently entered the ministry, brought

the message at the Sunday morning service. Harrison is the great-grandson of the late Frank Browning, one of the early members of the church.

A history of the church was distributed after the Sunday service. A meal was served at the church.

Anniversary committee and pastor at Holly Church look at certificate sent by Historical Commission, SBC, commending the church for 100 years service for the Lord. — Pictured left to right: Mrs. Barbara Smith, Chester Harrison, Mrs. Lowell Hinton, Mrs. Cecil Taylor, Mrs. Danny Bradley, and Dan Emerson, pastor.



## Life and Work Lesson

### Good News About Jesus

By Bobby Perry, Pastor  
First, Moss Point  
Luke 1:26-38

The gospel rests upon three giant pillars: Jesus' virgin birth, atoning death, and bodily resurrection. If any one of the three is removed, the gospel falls. Our study here concerns the first of these.

The record of Jesus' virgin conception and birth is given in greater detail in Luke than in Matthew. Matthew's account is from the standpoint of Joseph, Jesus' foster father. This was in keeping with Jewish custom. Luke's account was written from the standpoint of Mary, Jesus' mother. His record is significant because as a physician he adds an important dimension to the record.

Thus we are introduced to Luke's account of the virgin conception of Jesus. Whence came the information which it contains? Obviously it could have come only from Mary herself, either directly or indirectly, to Luke. To whom would a woman speak more frankly and in greater detail about the birth of her child than to a physician? Someone has suggested that before writing out a birth certificate the doctor always talks with the mother of the child. So we may regard the account of Luke as the beloved Physician's birth certificate of the Son of God.

Everything in Luke's background and training would lead him to doubt such a story. To record it would subject him to criticism by his colleagues. Yet having traced all things accurately, Luke was so convinced of its truth that he boldly and beautifully penned the most complete account of the virgin birth of Jesus on record. His record is the greatest proof of the virgin birth both historically and scientifically.

The Scripture relates three unusual births: Isaac, John the Baptist, and Jesus. The first two were supernatural in nature in that children were conceived by parents who because of age were far beyond the time of normal conception and birth. But in each case it involved conception by a human father and mother. Nevertheless, by every law of genetics such was impossible. The third was also supernatural in that it involved a virgin mother and no human father. Thus it was virgin birth (Hobbs).

I. The Annunciation (1:26-38).

Already Luke had recorded the miraculous conception of John the Baptist (1:5-25). This set the stage for

the announcement of an even greater and more far reaching event.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Gabriel appeared to Mary, a virgin, and disclosed the good news that God had chosen her to become the mother of His Son. Verses 26 and 27 underscore the carefulness with which Luke recorded the events. Every detail is spelled out in simplicity.

Note that Luke gave the location of Nazareth for the benefit of his Gentile readers unfamiliar with Palestine. Nazareth, a Galilean village, was located approximately 70 miles north-east of Jerusalem. Situated in a valley, Nazareth was surrounded by hills on all sides except the southern side. In a simple Galilean village, Gabriel delivered the Father's message to Mary, a virgin unmarried but betrothed to Joseph, a descendant of David.

"Espoused" or "betrothed" in Jewish life was more than our engagement and less than marriage. The parents of a boy and girl would agree that when they reached the proper age they would be married. At that age the maiden could accept or reject the arrangement. If she accepted it, she was betrothed to the man. This period usually lasted for about a year, during which time the couple lived apart. But during this time sexual infidelity was regarded as adultery, and was punishable by death by stoning. At the end of the betrothal period the marriage was performed and the couple lived together as husband and wife (Hobbs).

The initial greeting by Gabriel indicates that Mary had received favor from the Father, and in this sense she is blessed among all women. However, this does not carry with it the idea that she was able to bestow favor; rather, she had received favor from the Father.

Mary was troubled by the angel's report but Gabriel allays her fear in the command, "Stop fearing, Mary!" This is the same expression which he used to minimize the fear of Zacharias. The Greek construction indicates that Mary was already afraid and that Gabriel insisted that she stop fearing; she had found grace with God. He further indicated that she would conceive and bear a son, His name being Jesus.

II. The Analysis (1:34).

At this point Mary's analysis of the matter prompted a question. "How can this be, seeing I know not a man?"

Luke was the first scholar or man of science to deal with the question of the

virgin birth. And it is of interest to note that the first question to be raised about it did not come from some critic of a scientific era. It came from the lips and heart of Mary. It was in no sense a question designed to deny the fact. It was a question as to how it could be done.

III. The Answer (1:35-38).

Whenever we make an honest inquiry of God in faith we can be certain that he will answer.

Although the announcement must have thrilled the young virgin, she immediately objected to the reality of the experience, basing her objection upon a simple statement of fact — she was unmarried. The tremendous impact of verse 35 is often overshadowed by the simplicity in which it is stated. Gabriel's simple explanation of her conception is that Mary will become pregnant through the divine influence manifested in the working of the Holy Spirit.

This birth did not cause Jesus to be divine. The birth was God's method for his son to enter humanity. God alone was responsible for the birth of Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ was God-man. He had an earthly mother, but he was also God the Son in existence from eternity.

Conclusion

The New Testament makes no attempt to prove the virgin birth. Luke and Matthew record it; Paul indicates that the Redeemer was born of a woman; but the New Testament as a whole accepts the doctrine of the virgin birth as being harmonious with the life of the Savior whose miracles and ministry explain the existence of the New Testament. This was no trivial matter! Likely every Jewish woman for several hundred years had longed for such a pronouncement from God, but young, unassuming Mary had been chosen to become the mother of God's Son. The honor could not be denied; but the social pressure occasioned by such an experience must have been almost unbearable, not only in future months but even immediately in the mind of the young betrothed virgin. But, the angel's appearance to Joseph resolved whatever problem he had concerning Mary's pregnancy prior to their marriage.

In simple faith, Mary surrendered her destiny to God. Consequently, the words of Mary, "Be it unto me according to thy word."